

**REMARKS**

In an Official Action dated January 23, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-25, 50-58 and 62. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections in light of the following discussion. Additionally, Applicant requests that the Examiner favorably consider newly presented claims 69-94.

Preliminarily, Applicant notes that in the Office Action dated August 18, 2005 the Examiner indicated that dependent claims 23 and 24 were allowable over the prior art, but were dependent upon a rejected claim. Newly presented claim 84 incorporates features of claims 23 and 24. Further, in the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 4 is allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include features from claim 4.

Applicant believes that the claims as amended distinguish over the prior art of record, which relates to prosthetics used to replace the entire knee, including both the joint between the patella and the femur and the joint between the femur and the tibia. As discussed in the application, Applicant's prosthetic allows for the replacement of surface along the intercondylar notch of the femur without necessarily replacing the joint between the femur and the tibia. The claims have been amended in light of this difference.

For instance, claim 14 has been amended to recite that the medial or lateral extension is configured so that the femoral prosthesis has an edge that terminates along a surface configured to form an articular surface between the patella and the femur without substantially overlying an articular surface between the femur and the tibia. Further, claim 50 has been amended to recite that the intercondylar notch portion has outer edges that terminate so that the intercondylar notch portion is configured to overlie at least a portion of the intercondylar notch without substantially extending over an articular surface between a condyle and the tibia.

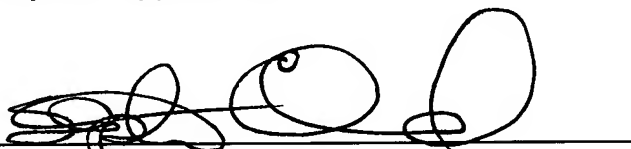
Similarly, newly presented claims 69-83 define Applicant's prosthesis in a manner that distinguishes the cited devices that are unitary elements used to replace the entire knee joint. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner favorably consider claims 69-83.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant believes that this application is in form for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney if the Examiner believes that issues remain that would prevent the Examiner from examining the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen H. Eland', is written over a horizontal line.

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